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Message Text

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47
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 L-02 TRSE-00

INT-05 EPA-04 CEQ-01 OES-05 SIL-01 LAB-03 OMB-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /050 W
---------- 090026
P R 231500Z NOV 74
FM AMCONSUL CALGARY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1194
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS CALGARY 513

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELTN, CA
SUBJ: ALBERTA TRUCKING ISSUE STILL ALIVE - IMPLICATIONS
FOR ALASKA MOVEMENTS

EF: OTTAWA 1595, MAY 24/74 AND OTTAWA 2020, JUNE 26/74

PASS COMMERCE, DOT AND CHAIRMAN INTERSTATE COMMERCE
COMMISSION.

1. EMBASSY TCO MET WITH O. A. GRIGGS, CHAIRMAN, ALBERTA
MOTOR TRANSPORT BOARD AT EDMONTON NOVEMBER 20. GRIGGS
CONTINUES BELIEVE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION NOT
TREATING APPLICATIONS BY ALBERTA TRUCKERS WELL, AND MOVING
EXTREMELY SLOWLY TO IMPLEMENT UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED JUNE
MEETING SAN FRANCISCO WITH ALBERTA AND OTHER WESTERN
PROVINCES. PLANS VISIT WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 29 TO MEET WITH
ICC COMMISSIONER MURPHY AND SENIOR OFFICIAL ROBERT BRIGGS TO
DISCUSS ONE RECENTLY DENIED APPLICATION. HAD PLANNED CONTACT
HOLTON (EUR/CAN) ON THAT DATE. TCO SUGGESTED IF HOLTON NOT
AVAILABLE HE CALL GALLAGHER (EB/TT).

2. GRIGGS INDICATED PATIENCE WEARING THIN OVER COMPLEX AND
COSTLY ICC PROCEDURES WHICH RESULT IN CONTINUAL DENIALS
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ALBERTA APPLICATIONS, IN VIEW OBJECTIONS BY CERTIFICATED

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U.S. CARRIERS. MANY OF THESE, IN HIS VIEW, ARE NOT ACTIVELY USING THEIR CERTIFICATES BUT RATHER FORCING ALBERTA CARRIERS LEASE THEIR RIGHTS AT RATES APPROACHING 20 PERCENT OF REVENUE EACH TRIP. GRIGGS FURTHER INDICATED RETALIATION LIKELY IF SITUATION NOT RESOLVED SOON AND MAY TAKE FORM OF NONRENEWAL OF U.S. TRUCKERS ALBERTA PERMITS WHICH ARE ISSUED ON YEAR TO YEAR BASIS. THIS WOULD FORCE U.S. CARRIERS TO INTERLINE, INTERCHANGE OR OBTAIN BY LEASE TRIP RIGHTS FROM ALBERTA CARRIERS. GRIGGS AGREED SUCH A MEASURE WOULD HAVE ADVERSE TRADE IMPACT AND STATED HE WOULD INVOKE THIS RELUCTANTLY AND ONLY IF ICC NOT MORE FORTHCOMING.

3. TCO FURTHER DISCUSSED ISSUE NOVEMBER 21 WITH OFFICIAL LARGE ALBERTA CARRIER WITH EXTENSIVE ICC AUTHORITY OBTAINED YEARS AGO. HE DOES NOT SHARE GRIGGS VIEWS WHICH HE FEELS ARE BASED UNDULY ON COMPLAINTS SMALLER FIRMS UNWILLING INVEST ADEQUATE RESOURCES IN PURSUIT OF ICC RIGHTS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE FEELS ALBERTA GOVERNMENT DECISION TO RETALIATE WOULD BE A MAJOR POLICY ONE WHICH CABINET WOULD NOT TAKE LIGHTLY. THERE WOULD BE GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. TRUCKERS AND USG, IF DESIRED, TO MAKE VIEWS KNOWN TO TRANSPORT AND OTHER MINISTERS.

4. COMMENT: U.S. - ALASKA MOVEMENTS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY HURT BY ANY ALBERTA RETALIATORY ACTION. GRIGGS ESTIMATES 50 - 100 U.S. TRUCKS MOVE THROUGH ALBERTA DAILY ON YEAR ROUND BASIS TO REACH ALASKA HIGHWAY. IN VIEW SENSITIVITY ALASKA TO TRANSPORT COSTS, STRONG ALASKA REACTION TO ANY ALBERTA ACTION MAY BE ANTICIPATED. STATE, COMMERCE AND DOT MAY ACCORDINGLY WISH DISCUSS SITUATION WITH ICC FROM THIS VIEWPOINT PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 29 MEETING.
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Disposition Event:
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